Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 ORM-01 DHA-02 AID-05 FDRE-00 H-02

OMB-01 NSC-05 IO-10 PER-01 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 PM-03

L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

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PR 181110Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7965

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 14484

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, VS

SUBJECT: PAROLE PROGRAM FOR CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: A) STATE 167770; B) BANGKOK 13740; C) STATE 162644

- 1. WE WELCOME NEWS THAT EXPANDED PAROLE AUTHORITY FOR VIETNAMESE, CAMBODIANS AND LAO WILL SOON BE GRANTED. THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE OVERALL SOLUTION FOR THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IN THAILAND.
- 2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SHAPE OF A SOLUTION TO THE REFUGEE PROBLEM HERE IS NOW FAIRLY WELL DEFINED. AS WE NOTED IN OUR RESPONSE TO STATE 158901, THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT (RTG) IS NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES OR THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE MILITARY CONFIDENTIAL

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AND CIVILIANS FROM CAMBODIA AND LAOS. (REF B). UNDER OUR EX-

PANDED PAROLE PROGRAM, WE WILL NOW BE ABLE TO TAKE THESE REFUGEES TO THE UNITED STATES. AS FOR THE REMAINING CAMBODIANS AND LAO (INCLUDING THE MEO TRIBESMAN), THE RTG IS WILLING TO TEMPORARILY RESETTLE THEM IN THAILAND UNTIL THE REFUGEES RECEIVE GUARANTEES THAT THEY CAN VOLUNTARILY RETURN TO THEIR NATIVE COUNTRIES WITHOUT DANGER. IN PRACTICE, THIS APPEARS TO US TO BE A PLAN THAT WILL PERMIT PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT IN THAILAND. THE RTG HAS ALREADY APPROACHED UNHCR FOR ASSISTANCE FOR ITS "TEMPORARY" RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM.

3. WE HOPE TO MOVE OUT OUR SHARE OF THE VIETNAMESE, CAMBODIANS AND LAO AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. WE ARE EXPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO AVOID HAVING THE LAO WAIT IN THAILAND FOR ANY EXTENDED LENGTH OF TIME WHILE VOLAGS ARE FINDING SPONSORS AND WHILE VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS CONTINUE TO LEAVE. WE HOPE THAT THE SAME PROCEDURES CAN BE FOLLOWED REGARDING SPONSORS FOR THE LAO AS WAS DONE FOR THE VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS, I.E. SPONSORS WERE LINED UP OFTEN AFTER THEY ENTERED THE U.S. REFUGEE SYSTEM. LEAVING LAO HERE FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD WHILE SPONSORS WERE LOCATED WOULD NOT ONLY GIVE THE IMPRESSION WE WERE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THE LAO BUT ALSO JEOPARDIZE OUR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE THAI UNDER WHICH WE TAKE OUT CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF REFUGEES WHILE THE THAI AGREE TO RESETTLE OTHERS HERE.

4. FINALLY, SO THAT WE MAY MOVE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE, WE ASK THAT THE FOUR TDY OFFICERS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO RUN THE REFUGEE OPERATION (REF C) BE SENT TO BANGKOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT IATF HAS GIVEN THIS MISSION. WHITEHOUSE

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